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facilitating full Latino participation in the American political process
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Executive Director

Mr. Arturo Vargas

June 11, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE: (916) 322-6440

The Honorable Ross Johnson

Chair, Fair Political Practices Commission

428 J Street, Suite 620

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: June 12, 2008 Agenda Item #12
Prenotice Discussion of Amendments to Regulation 18946.4

Dear Chairman Johnson:

On behalf of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, I am writing regarding proposed amendments to Regulation 18946.4. We urge the Fair Political Practices Commission to reject the proposed elimination of the "no value rule" that applies to 501(c)(3) fundraising events.

The NALEO Educational Fund is the leading nonprofit organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service, and our constituency includes the more than 6,000 Latino elected and appointed officials nationwide. We achieve this mission through three strategies: mobilizing the Latino community; developing the leadership and governance skills of Latino public servants; and promoting a policy framework that enhances Latino access to U.S. civic life.

During this time of our nation's economic challenges, many not-for-profit organizations look to fundraising events to secure much needed general support for their organizations. During the past decade, not-for-profits have increasingly seen a decline in such support from the philanthropic community. To bridge this gap in the resources that pay for rent, utilities and other necessary operating expenses, organizations depend heavily on fundraising through special events that tie their organization's mission to the communities in which they work and serve.

At the NALO Educational Fund, the NALEO Annual Conference serves this critical purpose and raises the equivalent of approximately 25% of our operating budget. At the same time, this convening provides the opportunity for dialogue and an exchange of timely and relevant information and ideas that affects the entire spectrum of Latino civic engagement, from participation as an active community member to public service. At our Annual Conference, we provide public officials with technical assistance that enhances their governance skills. By networking with their peers and other policy experts,

† deceased

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elected and appointed officials learn about innovative approaches to addressing the issues that face their communities, which helps them serve their constituents more effectively. Additionally, attendance at our Annual Conference provides these officials with an opportunity to demonstrate their support for our work.

The elimination of the current "no value" rule for 501(c)(3) charities will impair the fundraising ability of charities, and will deter public officials from attending events that will help them develop skills and acquire knowledge to better serve their communities. For these reasons, we strongly urge you to reject the proposed changes to Regulation 18946.4 that would eliminate the current "no value" rule.

Sincerely,



Arturo Vargas
Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Ray Remy
Commissioner A. Eugene Hugeunin, Jr.
Commissioner Robert Leidigh
Commissioner Timothy A. Hodson
Scott Hallabrin, General Counsel
William J. Lenkeit, Senior Commission Counsel